

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Ito et al. cannot be said to anticipate each and every limitation of claims 1 and 9, and that these independent claims should therefore be held allowable. Claims 1 and 9 being allowable, claims 2, 3, 5 and 10-13 as depending from these parent independent claims should also be allowable.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 8; Ito et al. '763 in view of Yoshida et al. '970 or Kawada et al. '260

Claims 4, 6, 7, and 8 stand rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ito et al. reference in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,080,970 to Yoshida et al. or U.S. Pat. No. 5,665,260 to Kawada et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons set forth above, independent claim 1 should be held allowable. Inasmuch as claims 4, 6, 7, and 8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, these dependent claims should be held allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Having fully addressed the rejections in the present Office action, Applicants courteously urge that for the above-presented reasons this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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/James Judge/

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